

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
May 18, 2015
Fairfax High School – Room J-105

PRAB Members Present

Jon Stehle
Jane Albro
Michael Anderson
Michael Breslin
Jeff Ferrell
Evie Ifantides

Janet Jaworski
Brian Knapp
Eric Mittnight
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Harry Wilbur
Leslie Herman

Members Absent

Kirk Holley
Robert Reinsel
Michael Slawski

Guests

Michelle Veresink Richmond, Parks & Recreation Department
Alex Shafer, Troop 1887
David Knapp, Troop 1887

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:40pm by Chairman Jon Stehle.

2. Adoption of Agenda & Minutes

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert moved to accept the agenda and corrected minutes. Jeff Ferrell seconded.
The agenda and minutes were approved.

3. Eagle Scout Presentations

a) Alex Shafer

Alex Shafer presented his project for building an enclosure for the restrooms at Van Dyck Park. He proposed dates of June 8-9, 2015 to complete the work.

b) David Knapp

David Knapp presented his project for widening the paths at Ashby Pond Conservatory. This project would also include spreading wood chips and planting wildflowers. He proposed dates of May 29-30, 2015 to complete the work.

PRAB thanked Alex Shafer and David Knapp for presenting.

4. Old Business

a) Budget Update

Leslie Herman reported that the finalized budget should be sent to her soon.

Jon Stehle has invited members of the finance department to join us for the next meeting to walk PRAB through the budget numbers and to start preparing for next year's budget process.

b) Old Town Square

Leslie Herman reported that around 500 people attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and about 2,500 attended the Derby-Q event. Plantings are still going into the park and the contractors are scaling back the mulch to create more green space. The parks crew will be changing the irrigation from drip to sprinklers to accommodate the additional grass areas. The railings are being removed, powder-coated and knobs added to deter skateboarders. Lighting for the fountains is still being sorted out. Additional signage will be added to the cascade fountain to discourage using it as a wading pool.

Leslie Herman noted that Rock the Block will be held on Friday, May 22 and PRAB is encouraged to attend.

Jon Stehle expressed interest in park usage since it is a 24-hour park.

Leslie Herman explained that cameras will be mounted to the intersection so that we can watch activities in the park.

Jon Stehle noted that public Wi-Fi will be available beginning in August.

5. New Business

a) Parks Rules

Jon Stehle asked members to send any edits that they might have to Leslie Herman and himself within one week. The rules will then have two public notices before it goes to City Council.

Brian Knapp questioned the definition of parks in the document and stressed potential limitations of this definition for the department. He also stressed the importance of having the Bylaws and the Parks Rules go before Council at the same time.

Harry Wilbur questioned why every reference to "Parks & Recreation" was changed to "City of Fairfax."

Brian Knapp moved to approve that PRAB approves the Parks Rules with the proviso that City staff continue to look into the definitions of "Parks" and "City of Fairfax" vs. "Parks & Recreation." Jeff Ferrell seconded.

Parks Rules with proviso were approved.

b) OurParksOurFuture.com

Jon Stehle explained that the site has switched over to a new format so each person might have to reset their username. He encouraged people to use the site to develop conversations.

6. Parks & Recreation Department Report

a) Snyder Trail

Leslie Herman reported that construction has begun. Informative letter has been sent to Mosby Woods residents. The project should be completed by the end of June/early July.

b) Providence Elementary Field #4 Dugouts

Leslie Herman reported that the dugout structures are done. Fairfax Little League will be adding shingles on Memorial Day Weekend.

c) Draper Drive Playground

Leslie Herman reported that playground equipment will be delivered this week. Contractor is still working on getting their License A Contractor's license, but should have soon.

d) Green Acres SUP

City Council has approved SUP for Green Acres and the agreement with Main Street Child Development Center.

e) Rock the Block!

Rock the Block will start on Friday, May 22.

f) Mother Son Campout

This event was last weekend and went very well.

g) Fourth of July

Leslie Herman explained that planning is moving forward as the event is fast-approaching.

Leslie Herman explained that we are expecting larger crowds because of World Police & Fire Games. She explained that at Fairfax High School a large screen will be brought in to the parking lot so that that area can be an overflow area for the larger crowd.

Food vendors along the parade route have been placed so that they can stay in the same location during the Fireman's Muster.

7. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board – Robert Reinsel

Not present because at School Board Meeting.

b) Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski

Janet Jaworski reported that they are reviewing the Fairfax Boulevard Master Plan and will be sending their recommendations to Council as appropriate.

She noted that at Fairfax Circle no leases are being extended past 2016.

Layton Hall project is still on hold, but will be doing the minimum to keep the special use permit.

Leslie Herman noted that they have widened the Layton Hall Trail from Kenmore Drive to Van Dyck Park.

c) Senior Center – Jane Albro

Painting was completed in the Senior Center and new furniture has been delivered. The Memorial Day Cookout will be held on Friday.

d) Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley

Not present.

e) Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur

COA is a sponsor for Virginia Opera's performances at Sherwood, which have been very successful. COA has selected a public art sculpture for in front of Sherwood.

f) NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp

NOVA Parks will take control of Beaver Dam on June 1. NOVA Parks will have a lease to operate the area as a park. In two years it will still be drained to sure up the dam.

Trail connection between Thaiss and Wilcoxson should still take place this year.

Five pools opening Memorial Day weekend.

NOVA Parks retirement had been underfunded, but they now got to 99.3% funded.

10. Matters of the Members

Leslie Herman reminded PRAB members about the upcoming Memorial Day weekend events including Ride of the Patriots on Sunday and American Legion ceremony on Monday.

Brian Knapp expressed concern that the Fairfax High School stadium and field have not been consistently cleaned. Fairfax High School Boosters took care of it in the fall, but trash and litter are an ongoing problem now.

11. Adjournment

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert moved to end the meeting. Jeff Ferrell seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.